

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle comprising: ~~a plurality of appliance units; a frame for holding~~ configured to define an enclosure suited to accommodate and removably hold at least one of ~~the a~~ a plurality of appliance units; a utility chassis configured and arranged within the frame; the utility chassis including a plurality of clusters each with different types of connectors suited to provide access to utilities, the different types of connectors being in relative positions within associated ones of the clusters in a manner that is identical for each of the clusters, at least one of the connectors of one of the clusters being arranged to enable connection of the at least one of the appliance units with at least one of the utilities, ~~at least one connector for connecting the appliance units to utilities as needed; wherein at least one of the plurality of appliance units is operatively and removably attached within the frame and the attached appliance unit can be operatively and removably replaced with another of the plurality of appliance units.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising removable guides arranged to divide ~~wherein the frame is divided~~ into areas, which are each configured and arranged to accommodate and removably hold ~~such that a~~ respective ones of the plurality of appliance units ~~can be removably held, in each area, in the divided frame.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the frame ~~can be connected and/or interconnected~~ is configured and arranged to connect to another frame adjacent thereto.

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

Claim 4 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 3, ~~including a utility chassis for connecting appliances to utilities within the frame, wherein the utility chassis being is positioned such that to support flow through of the utilities to and/or from appliances placed in the adjacent frame can be connected to utilities either within the frame, or within the adjacent frame.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the plurality of connectors complement connectors of the at least one of the appliance units to mate with each other to enable the at least one of the appliance units to operate ~~frame can hold two of the plurality of appliance units, one in a generally horizontal configuration and another in a generally vertical configuration.~~

Claim 6 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the frame can hold two or more of the plurality of appliance units, at least one appliance unit in a generally horizontal configuration and at least one appliance unit in a generally vertical configuration.~~

Claim 7 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the plurality of appliance units includes generally oven shaped appliance units and generally stove top shaped appliance units.~~

Claim 8 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 5, wherein a stovetop shaped appliance unit is placed in a generally horizontal configuration on the frame and an oven shaped appliance unit is placed in vertical configuration on the frame.~~

Claim 9 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 6, wherein the generally oven shaped appliance units are selected from the group~~

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

~~consisting of : gas ovens, electrical ovens, convection ovens, microwave ovens, refrigeration units, dish washing units and warming drawer units.~~

~~Claim 10 (canceled): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 8, wherein the generally stove top shaped appliance units are selected from the group consisting of : burner units, griddle units, refrigeration, ventilation units, and warming units.~~

~~Claim 11 (canceled): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the appliance units include comprise commercial grade appliance units.~~

Claim 12 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the utility chassis is configured to provide access to utilities selected from a group consisting of electric, gas, water, drainage, steam, vacuum, air , communication based utilities and any combination thereof ~~appliance units comprise domestic grade appliance units.~~

~~Claim 13 (canceled): A modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle comprising: a frame having at least one first bay for insertion of at least one substantially vertically oriented appliance unit and at least one second bay for placement of at least one substantially horizontally oriented appliance unit; at least one connector for operably connecting units to utilities as needed; wherein one or more of a plurality of interchangeable appliance units can be removably placed and secured into either the first or second bay; and the appliance units can be interchanged with another similarly oriented appliance unit.~~

~~Claim 14 (canceled): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 13, wherein the frame can hold two of the plurality of appliance units, one in a generally horizontal configuration and another in a generally vertical configuration.~~

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

Claim 15 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 13, wherein the plurality of appliance units includes generally oven shaped appliance units and generally stove top shaped appliance units.~~

Claim 16 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 14, wherein a stovetop shaped appliance unit is placed in a generally horizontal configuration on the frame and an oven shaped appliance unit is placed in a generally vertical configuration on the frame.~~

Claim 17 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 15, wherein the generally oven shaped appliance units are selected from the group consisting of : gas ovens, electrical ovens, convection ovens, microwave ovens, small refrigeration units, dish washing units, and warming drawer units.~~

Claim 18 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 15, wherein the generally stove top shaped appliance units are selected from the group consisting of : burner units, griddle units, ventilation units, and warming units.~~

Claim 19 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 13, wherein the appliance units comprise commercial grade appliance units.~~

Claim 20 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 13, wherein the appliance units comprise domestic grade appliance units.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended: The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 14, further comprising a disconnect configured to allow uninterrupted flow of the at least one utility as required by the at least one of the appliance units to enable operation and to safely prevent further release of the at least one utility that would otherwise occur upon disengagement of the at least one of the appliance units. ~~wherein the frame is substantially vertically oriented.~~

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

Claim 22 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 21, wherein two appliance units are removably attached to the frame.~~

Claim 23 (canceled): ~~The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 21, wherein three appliance units are removably attached to the frame.~~

Claim 24 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim ~~28~~ 43, including ~~decorative~~ covers and wherein the frame and the appliance unit ~~units~~ include means to removably attach the ~~decorative~~ covers thereto, the covers being selected from a group consisting of form fitting covers and front facade panels.

Claim 25 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein at the connectors of each of the clusters are quick-connect sockets configured to couple or mate with plugs of the appliance units so that once the appliance units are inserted into the frame in appropriate position, the quick-connect sockets couple or mate with the plugs to enable access to the utilities.

Claim 26 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising a any of a structural base, legs and casters to render support and to which is securely fixed the frame.

Claim 27 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising an appliance unit secured within the enclosure of the frame and arranged to access at least one of the utilities via at least one of the connectors of one of the clusters.

Claim 28 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein each of the clusters is equipped with shut-off valves or electrical breakers to shut off applicable ones of the utilities and quick disconnect devices to disconnect the

Serial No. 10/534,550
Office Action dated October 10, 2006
Amendment dated December 27, 2006

appliance units from the utilities.

Claim 29 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 28, wherein each of the clusters has two cluster portions each with respective groups of the connectors, the shut-off valves being arranged to shut off the applicable utilities of one of the cluster portions independently of the other of the cluster portions.

Claim 30 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 28, wherein each of the clusters has two cluster portions each with respective groups of the connectors, the shut-off valves being arranged to shut off the applicable utilities of both of the cluster portions.

Claim 31 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a plurality of bays each being associated with respective ones of the clusters, further comprising a plurality of appliance units within different ones of the bays, each of the appliance units being configured to be operational if moved into any of the bays by accessing appropriate ones of the utilities via the clusters associated with whichever of the bays the appliance units are in.

Claim 32 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 31, wherein the appliance units are configured to access different ones of the utilities from that of each other to operate.

Claim 33 (newly added): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 27, wherein the appliance unit accesses a plurality of the utilities simultaneously via the one of the clusters.